

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     SEOUL 07433 160950Z

14  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 /070 W  
----- 008934

P R 160906Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9516  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7433

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: YI CHUL-SUNG UPSETS KIM YONG-SAM FOR NDP TOP LEADER-  
SHIP POST

REF: (A) SEOUL 7017, (B) SEOUL 7329

SUMMARY. AT SEPTEMBER 16 SESSION OF NDP CONVENTION, NON-MAINSTREAM CANDIDATE YI CHUL-SUNG NARROWLY DEFEATED KIM YONG-SAM ON SECOND BALLOT BY 25 VOTES OUT OF DELEGATE TOTAL OF 753 AND THEREBY WON POST AS SENIOR SUPREME COMMITTEEMAN. PREVIOUSLY, ON SEPTEMBER 15, DELEGATES ELECTED NON-MAINSTREAM CONVENTION CHAIRMAN AND PASSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROVIDING FOR NEW COALITION LEADERSHIP SYSTEM. ON SAME DAY, YI CHUL-SUNG WAS ALSO ELECTED AS ONE OF SIX SUPREME COMMITTEEMEN IN A RACE THAT KIM YONG-SAM DID NOT ENTER. MEMBERSHIP OF THIS COMMITTEE NOW SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN MAINSTREAM AND NON-MAINSTREAM BUT YI REPORTEDLY WILL HAVE TIE-BREAKING AUTHORITY. CLOSE DIVISION PORTENDS CONTINUED DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER TRAILING FORMER PARTY PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM ON FIRST BALLOT CAST FOR NDP SENIOR SUPREME COMMITTEEMAN, YI CHUL-SUNG NARROWLY WON TOP PARTY POSITION IN NEW COALITION LEADERSHIP APPARATUS ON SECOND BALLOT BY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     SEOUL 07433 160950Z

25 VOTES. RUNNING AGAINST BOTH KIM AND YI ON FIRST

BALLOT WAS FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHONG IL-HYONG. NDP DELEGATES HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT CHONG'S LATE ENTRY INTO LEADERSHIP RACE ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN RUMORED TO BE INTERESTED PRIOR TO CONVENTION. (REF B) CHONG'S SECRETARY CONFIDED TO POLITICAL SECTION LOCAL THAT CHONG HAD CHANGED HIS MIND EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 15 SESSION AFTER PERSUASION BY "ELEMENTS" HE CLAIMED REPRESENTED BOTH MAINSTREAM AND NON-MAINSTREAM. CHONG APPARENTLY INTENDED TO GIVE BOTH FACTIONS A THIRD OPTION.

2. ON FIRST BALLOT KIM YONG-SAM LED WITH 349 VOTES; YI CHUL-SUNG HAD 263; AND DR. CHONG PICKED UP 134. BEFORE SECOND BALLOTING, CHONG WITHDREW AND, IN EFFECT, THREW HIS VOTES TO YI CHUL-SUNG. KIM YONG-SAM WAS ONLY ABLE TO ATTRACT FIFTEEN MORE VOTES ON THIS SECOND BALLOT.

3. NON-MAINSTREAM CANDIDATE YI CHUL-SUNG LED FIELD IN NINE-MAN SUPREME COMMITTEE RACE (FOR SIX PLACES) WITH MAINSTREAM YI CHUNG-HWAN TRAILING HIM AS SECOND LARGEST VOTEGETTER. SIN TO-HWAN AND KO HUNG-MUN WERE ALSO ELECTED, REPRESENTING NON-MAINSTREAM, WITH YU CHI-SUNG AND KIM CHAE-KWANG REPRESENTING MAINSTREAM.

4. RESULT OF YI'S VICTORY OVER KIM YONG-SAM WILL BE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE OF SIX, NOT SEVEN, EVENLY SPLIT BETWEEN MAINSTREAM AND NON-MAINSTREAM. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT, WHEN SUPREME COMMITTEEMAN YI CHUL-SUNG WAS ELECTED TO SENIOR POST, HE AUTOMATICALLY VACATES REGULAR SEAT BUT THIS WILL REMAIN UN-FILLED. ALTHOUGH NEW AMENDMENT IN PARTY CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, "UNDERSTANDING" IS THAT YI CAN BREAK TIE VOTE AT PARTY SUPREME COMMITTEE SESSIONS; HOWEVER, PROCEDURES IN THIS EVENT NOT CLEAR.

5. AT BEGINNING OF CONVENTION, NON-MAINSTREAM CHONG HON-CHU WAS ELECTED CONVENTION CHAIRMAN OVER MAINSTREAM PAK HAE-CHUNG BY 46 VOTES WHICH APPARENTLY CAUSED FIRST SIGNS OF SERIOUS CONCERN IN KIM YONG-SAM'S CAMP. CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS, AS PREDICTED, WERE SUSPENSEFUL BUT ORDERLY. BUT MAINSTREAM AND NON-MAINSTREAM DID ARGUE HEATEDLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     SEOUL 07433 160950Z

OVER WHAT DAY TO ELECT SENIOR SUPREME COMMITTEEMAN WITH NON-MAINSTREAM AS VICTOR.

6. IN ADDITIONAL ACTIONS, PARTY CONVENTION PASSED RESOLUTIONS:  
(1) TO STAND IN FOREFRONT OF STRUGGLE TO DEVELOP NATION'S DEMOCRATIC CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM "DEMONIC HOFFS" OF NORTH; (2) TO STRUGGLE CEASELESSLY TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC-PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL

ORDER AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS; (3) TO FIGHT  
POLITICAL CORRUPTION; (4) TO CRITICIZE "MALADMINISTRATION"  
AND (5) TO UNITE AND STRUGGLE WITH RULING CAMP IN ORDER  
TO CARRY OUT "EXPECTATIONS OF PEOPLE."

7. STAGE OF OLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING WAS DECORATED  
WITH PACKING-BOX LIKE BOOTHS, PROPERLY CURTAINED FOR  
DELEGATE VOTING. EACH BALLOTING TOOK IN EXCESS OF TWO  
HOURS TO MARK AND TALLY. DRP AND DUP EACH SENT FLOWERED  
WREATHS WHICH WERE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON STAGE. NO  
SIGNS OR PLACARDS WERE PERMITTED INSIDE AUDITORIUM.

8. COMMENT: SURPRISING CONVENTION RESULT STILL LEAVES SEVERAL  
PROBLEMS IN ITS WAKE: THE SIX-MAN RULING COMMITTEE IS EQUALLY  
SPLIT BETWEEN MAINSTREAM AND NON-MAINSTREAM WITH YI  
CHUL-SUNG, PRIMUS INTER PARES, BUT APPARENTLY WITH A TIE-  
BREAKING VOTE. BALLOTING PROVED THAT PARTY IS STILL  
DIVIDED IN TWO MORE OR LESS EQUAL SEGMENTS (ALONG  
SECTIONAL LINES GOING BACK TO 1959 OR EARLIER). NARROW  
VOTE MARGIN AND EVEN DIVISION IN SUPREME COMMITTEE INDICATE  
NDP MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE DIFFICULTY FUNCTIONING AS BLOC  
AT UPCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER  
20. NONETHELESS PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOTED REPEATEDLY THAT  
THEY CONDUCTED A REAL ELECTION, SUGGESTING THIS WAS  
A NEARLY FORGOTTEN PHENOMENON IN KOREA. THIS IN ITSELF  
MAY HELP TO REFURBISH PARTY'S PUBLIC IMAGE TO A SMALL  
DEGREE AND GIVE OPPOSITION NEW HEART, IF NOT REAL ADDED  
POWER VIS-A-VIS GOVERNMENT.

STERN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, PARTY STRENGTH, PARTY ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SEOUL07433  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760349-0617  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760953/aaaabsza.tel  
**Line Count:** 144  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SEOUL 7017, 76 SEOUL 7329  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YI CHUL-SUNG UPSETS KIM YONG-SAM FOR NDP TOP LEADER- SHIP POST  
**TAGS:** PINT, KS, (KIM YONG-SAM), (YI CHUL-SUNG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006